

BUREAU AGAIN OUT FOR CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

In Report Renews Recommendation Telegraph and Telephone Systems Be Taken.

FOR REPAIR PLANT HERE

Would Standardize Salaries of All Subordinate Officials of Various Postoffices in U. S.

Proposals for the standardization of salaries of all subordinate officials of the various postoffices of the country, for the appointment of postmasters of the second, third and fourth classes by the Postmaster General instead of by the President, and for the erection in Washington, at a cost of \$200,000, of a factory building for the mail repair and equipment shops, are made in the annual report of Postmaster General Burleson, made public today.

Mr. Burleson renews his recommendations for Government ownership of the telephone and telegraph lines of the United States and the Insular possessions, and for a space instead of a weight basis of railway mail pay. He points out that the cost of mail repair and equipment shops, at a cost of \$200,000, of a factory building for the mail repair and equipment shops, are made in the annual report of Postmaster General Burleson, made public today.

The report roundly scores the public building policy embodied in "pork barrel" omnibus building acts, declaring that many buildings are erected in cities where the cost of janitor service alone greatly exceeds the amount necessary to obtain satisfactory quarters, including light and heat, under rental agreement.

Other recommendations made by the Postmaster General are: For the assessment of a directory charge of 1 cent on each letter or card mailed, and for the use of the address on the back of the letter or card, and for the use of the address on the back of the letter or card.

For the establishment of a guarantee fund for bonded officers to relieve them of the expense of furnishing bonds.

For extension of the system of transporting periodicals by fast freight instead of in mail cars.

For additional compensation to the railroad for transporting parcel post mail.

For a charge of 1 cent for all letters returned through the dead letter office.

For increase in the maximum of postal savings deposits now allowed to each individual.

For the removal of the four-pound weight limit on first class mail.

War Caused Deficit.

An audited deficit of \$11,393,957, caused by the European war, is shown in the report. The Postmaster General says the war cost the postal service \$21,000,000.

Of the total deficit, Mr. Burleson's analysis shows that \$10,000,000 is due to the increase of salaries of postal employees and additional railway mail pay required by law.

Other important announcements include the following:

Starting growth of the parcel post, notwithstanding the difficulty in other classes of mail, and the adoption of more liberal regulations regarding the limit of size and the insurance privilege.

Maintenance of frequent mail service to all foreign countries, including the belated delivery of mail to the important improvements of the facilities of postal exchange between the United States and foreign countries.

Interesting effects of the war in money orders and postal savings banks, including phenomenal growth of the latter.

Parcel Post by Freight.

The Postmaster General says that an investigation is being conducted as to the feasibility of inaugurating a plan of transporting by freight throughout the country, the large quantities of parcel post matter emanating from the various departments in Washington, instead of in the mails as at present.

On the construction of a new factory building in Washington the Postmaster General has this to say:

JAPAN TO PROTEST YUAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE THRONE

Sudden Change at Peking May Cause International Crisis in Far East.

TOKYO, Dec. 12.—Japan is expected to make immediate representations to the Chinese government if reports from Peking saying that Yuan Shi Kai, President of the Chinese republic, has accepted the crown as Emperor are confirmed in formal communications to the foreign office.

It is realized here that a sudden change in Peking, coming at a time when China-Japanese affairs are in a delicate shape, may turn the attention of the world to a new international crisis in the Far East.

It is feared here that revolutionary outbreaks will occur throughout China when the reports filter through to the masses. The recent trouble at Shanghai, when rebels attacked the arsenal and seized a Chinese cruiser, was generally considered a protest against reports that the government was drifting toward a monarchy.

Japan, it is understood, sent a friendly note of warning to Yuan Shi Kai several months ago, when it was first rumored that he planned to ascend the throne. In this note the Japanese government is said to have laid the support of the allied powers, their diplomatic representatives conveyed to the Chinese statesmen the declaration of their governments would regard as unfriendly any change in the form of government that might cause revolutions and endanger lives and property of foreigners.

Gravest Fears of Trouble With Japan Are Agitating China

PEKING, Dec. 12.—President Yuan Shi Kai's coronation as Emperor of the Postal Service is now handling 1,000,000 parcels annually. When it is considered that prior to the establishment of the parcel post not more than one-fourth of that number were handled, the immense popularity and growth of the parcel post is apparent.

Of the 1,000 full railway postoffice cars in use and in reserve at the end of the fiscal year, 100 were of the new type, and the remainder were of the old type.

These figures represent a very substantial advance toward securing a more efficient postal service.

In all, 100 new railway postoffice cars and forty-seven new motor cars were ordered.

And ninety-five new motor cars were ordered.

Postoffice cars, 100 full-street armament cars and sixty-one steel unarmament cars were ordered.

Rural Delivery Funds Ample.

"Of the funds appropriated for the maintenance of rural delivery during the fiscal year 1915 there is an unexpended balance of approximately \$2,150,000."

War Hits Money-order Business.

"In no other branch of the postal establishment has the disturbing effects of the European war been more generally felt than in the money-order service."

The effect on the money-order business was felt in many respects.

Heavy falling off in postal receipts that commenced with the outbreak of the war, and the consequent falling off in the volume of money orders, is a very serious situation.

The recovery was more rapid, however, for by the end of the year the volume of money orders had returned to normal.

International business, on the other hand, declined continuously throughout the year.

By far the largest part of foreign money orders are drawn on the countries of Europe, and the war has seriously affected the volume of money orders with most of these countries.

Foreign-Born Depositors Lead.

"A compilation of data with respect to the activity of postal savings depositors, made as of June 30, 1915, is now ready."

Of the total number of depositors, 58 per cent were born outside of the United States and had to their credit \$47,161,621.

Of the total of the total postal savings deposits.

"Successful as it is, the postal savings service falls short of bringing to the public the full measure of its benefits."

The records show that at the close of the fiscal year approximately 54 per cent of the number of depositors had been born outside of the United States.

Automobile Service Satisfactory.

"The first actual test of the efficiency and economy of a combined screen wagon, city delivery, and collection service under Government owned and operated equipment was inaugurated in Washington, D. C., on October 13, 1915."

SALES AND PRICE RANGES

Of Stocks and Bonds on Washington Stock Exchange for the Year to and Including Saturday.

(Furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co.)

SALES.	BONDS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
1,000	U. S. Coupon 3's.....	102	102	102	102
1,000	U. S. Reg. 4's.....	109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2	109 1/2
1,000	Geo. Gas Cert. Ind. 5's.....	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2
12,000	Georgetown Gas 5's.....	104	104	104	104
285,000	Washington Gas 5's.....	103	106	102 1/2	106
1,000	Col. Gas & Elec. Det. 5's.....	60	60	60	60

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
255,500	Cap. Traction R. R. 5's.....	107	108	103 1/2	108
1,000	Anacostia & Potomac 5's.....	100	100	100	100
1,000	Ana. Pot. Guar. 5's.....	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
57,000	City & Suburban 5's.....	101 1/2	102 1/2	101 1/2	102 1/2
1,800	Metropolitan R. R. 5's.....	104 1/2	104 1/2	103 1/2	103 1/2
442,500	Wash. Ry. & Elec. 4's.....	81	83	80	81 1/2
1,000	Wash. Alex. & Mt. V. 5's.....	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
478,000	Potomac Elec. Cons. 5's.....	99 1/2	101 1/2	99	100
36,000	Pot. Elec. Lt. 1st. 5's.....	105	106	103 1/2	105 1/2
23,000	C. & P. Telephone 5's.....	103 1/2	106	103	104
500	Wash. Market 5's 1927.....	96	96	96	96
2,000	W. M. Cold Storage 5's.....	100	100	100	100
19,800	N. W. Steamboat 5's.....	100	100 1/2	100	100 1/2
56,500	Riggs Realty (Long) 5's.....	101	102	101	101
1,000	Riggs Realty (Short) 5's.....	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2
1,000	Col. Gas & Elec. 5's.....	78	78	78	78

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
4,156	Capital Traction.....	98 1/2	99 1/2	85	86 1/2
4,648	Wash. Ry. & Elec. com.....	80	92	81	82 1/2
5,665 1/2	Wash. Ry. & Elec. pfd.....	82	86	80	82 1/2
37	N. & W. Steamboat.....	155	155	150	150
3,678	Washington Gas.....	75 1/2	78 1/2	69	76 1/2

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
1,363	Mergenthaler Linotype.....	192	194	170	170
2,681	Lanston Monotype.....	60	82	60	76 1/2
141	American National Bank.....	160	160	150	150 1/2
20	Capital National Bank.....	200	200	200	200
157	Commercial National Bank.....	190	198	190	192
75	District National Bank.....	136	136	133 1/2	133 1/2
5	Far. & Mech. Nat. Bank.....	260	260	260	260
41	Federal National Bank.....	135	140	135	136
22	Lincoln Nat. Bank.....	160	160	160	160
12	Metropolitan Bank.....	190	196	190	195
16	Second National Bank.....	148	148	148	148
555	Nat. Bank of Washington.....	235	240	217 1/2	220

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
148	Amer. Security & Trust.....	280	281	260	261
89	National Sav. & Trust.....	270	270	270	270
62	Union Trust.....	128	128	120	120
67	Washington Loan & Trust.....	225	231 1/2	225	230 1/2
132	Continental Trust.....	116 1/2	118 1/2	115	115

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
5	Home Savings.....	405	405	405	405
100	Firemen's Fire Insurance.....	18	18	18	18
118	Columbia Title Insurance.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

SALES.	STOCKS.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
842 3-10	Grapho. com.....	30	142	30	142
413-10	Grapho. pfd.....	70	155	70	154
210	Merch. Trans. & Storage.....	105	105	100	100
21	Security Storage.....	190	190	190	190
55	Washington Market.....	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
10	Greene Cananea.....	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2

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118	Columbia Title Insurance.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

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Prosperity Evidence Gives Trade Impetus

Manufacturers and Financier Push Business Plans With Confidence—Speculation Subsides, Although Security Values Droop.

Each succeeding week not only marks the pyramiding of evidences of prosperity, but is dispelling from the minds of American business men the fear of slumps and mishaps in financial and commercial circles at the conclusion of the war.

The result is that the manufacturers and financiers of the country are pushing plans to care for a greater domestic business and organizing to capture foreign markets in which the European struggle has given them an opportunity to gain a foothold.

An anomalous situation prevails in the face of the strongest financial situation in the nation's history, appears to have completely subsided, and security values are drifting downward.

Plethora of Money.

In commenting on the state of general business the New York Times of today says:

"There is little or no significance now in the business showing of a week unless it indicates a new trend or a check to the continued progress that has been evident for months. None of these indications was apparent in the week just past. The reports from all sections of the country were of the same tenor as they had been for a long time.

It is disposing rapidly of the hoard of money, and an increasing desire to buy things. Orders for quick delivery have been pouring in at the jobbing centers, to care for demands greater than had been foreseen.

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WEEK IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES

The stock market today stands out as the prominent exception to the trend of American business. Though the American public has more money to spend than at any time since 1906, or just prior to the panic of 1907, and is spending it freely, as is evidenced by the large orders which related retailers are sending to jobbers and manufacturers, speculation in securities has been practically suspended and prices are drifting downward.

The mystery as to the weakness of United States Steel common and the entire list of industrial securities, following the remarkably favorable showing of the Steel Corporation in its monthly statement, has been solved.

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